

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 858

By Kurita

A RESOLUTION to commend Althea D. Jack for her exemplary service to the Tennessee General Assembly.

WHEREAS, each legislative session this body is pleased to recognize certain persons who have committed themselves, through their adroit service, to the betterment of the legislative process; and

WHEREAS, Althea D. Jack is one such individual who has served with acumen and alacrity as an intern and employee of the Tennessee General Assembly, distinguishing herself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to her community; and

WHEREAS, Althea Jack currently works assiduously with the Commission on Civic Education under the astute chairmanship of Senate Speaker Pro Tem Rosalind Kurita; and

WHEREAS, one of her noble initiatives seeks to expose children to the voting process at an early age, building curiosity about voting and sparking dialogue between children and parents about the importance of voting; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Jack was most deservedly crowned as Miss Tennessee International 2008, an experience which has enabled her to spread her message farther; determined to educate and empower children, teens, and adults in the exercising of their civic duties, she travels throughout Tennessee promoting her platform of civic engagement; and

WHEREAS, as Miss Tennessee International 2008, Ms. Jack appeared with former Congressman Harold Ford, Jr., during an early voting rally for Senator Andy Berke at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church in Chattanooga and performed the National Anthem and served as a judge at the 2007-2008 We the People; the Citizen and the Constitution Competition and Showcase at Middle Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, additionally, she appeared at the Music City Votes rally in Nashville and discussed her platform with presidential hopeful Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton during her visit to Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Althea Jack also reaches out to her community as a mentor for the Governor's Mentoring Initiative and Youth Villages; as a mentor, she builds a strong relationship with a foster child, engaging in quality time to discuss and develop essential life skills and college preparation; and

WHEREAS, a native of Plainfield, New Jersey, Althea Jack was born to proud parents Ann Jordan and the late David Barker; even as a child, she felt compelled to help others in her community; and

WHEREAS, a stellar student, Ms. Jack graduated in the top one percent of her high school class; in May of 2007, she received her Bachelor of Science degree with honors in Human and Organizational Development from Vanderbilt University; and

WHEREAS, as a student at Vanderbilt, she cultivated her passion for helping others by volunteering with the Andrew Jackson Boys and Girls Club, mentoring students at Stratford High School, and leading community service initiatives to bridge the gap between Vanderbilt and the Greater Nashville communities; she also rendered sterling service as a Resident Advisor and as the Vice President of the Eta Beta chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, eager to familiarize herself with the characteristics and complexity of Tennessee state government and to further her studies, Althea Jack brought her many abilities and singular expertise to Capitol Hill for the 2007 session of the One Hundred Fifth General Assembly to serve as a legislative intern; and

WHEREAS, throughout the 2007 legislative session, Ms. Jack surpassed all criteria that define a devoted and conscientious legislative intern; and

WHEREAS, after exhibiting great enthusiasm, dedication, and work ethic, she was hired in July of 2007 to work under Senator Kurita as an executive administrative assistant; as such, she has capably supervised a legislative assistant, scheduled appointments, responded to constituent concerns, and completed office specific projects; and

WHEREAS, Althea Jack is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commend and honor Althea D. Jack upon her meritorious service to the good people of Tennessee through her exemplary service to the 105<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, applaud her commitment to community stewardship, congratulate her on her ascension to the title of Miss Tennessee International 2008, and extend to her our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.